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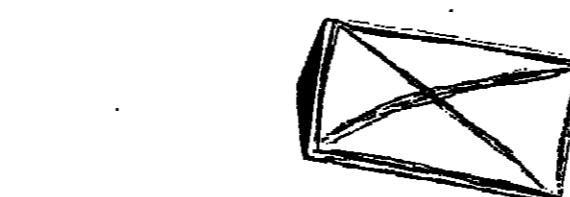
in space,
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ON (R) — Spanish
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Nature magazine
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'Settlers used Agent Orange'

RAMALLAH (AFP) — Palestinian farmers charged Monday that Jewish settlers used a helicopter to spray and kill hundreds of their olive trees with deadly defoliant Agent Orange. "Nearly 2,600 trees have been destroyed by settlers" on land the Jewish occupiers claim, Mahmoud Al Attar told journalists. The 50-year-old farmer from the West Bank village of Turmos Ayya, near Ramallah, brought the shrivelled bark of an olive tree to a press conference. Settlers have denied the charges but witnesses from the village said a helicopter had flown over the olive grove several times during August. "Ten days after the last flight, I saw my trees changing. About 20 were seriously affected," Mr. Attar said. An agronomist from the Palestinian university of Bir Zeit, Mahmoud Attar, said: "Our analysis shows a strong concentration of 2,4-D, a component of Agent Orange, in the sap of the trees." Mr. Attar of the Palestinian environmental information centre said U.S. forces used Agent Orange as a defoliant during the Vietnam war.

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Murayama pays 'highly fruitful and successful' visit Japan reaffirms commitment to support for Mideast peace process, praises Jordan's role Kingdom to receive \$400 million in Japanese assistance

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama paid a six-hour visit to Jordan on Monday that obviously gave a new impetus to Jordanian-Japanese political and economic relations and produced a Japanese pledge to extend a \$200 million loan to the Kingdom.

The loan, which will be granted in concert with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, will raise to more than \$400 million that Jordan is expected to receive from Japan as grant aid, project loans and non-project credits in the 1995-Japanese fiscal year (April 1995-March 1996).

In talks with His Majesty King Hussein, Mr. Murayama also indicated that

his country intended to maintain the "present level, if not more," of the annual aid of about \$40 million to Jordan, an informed source said.

According to the source, Mr. Murayama, in the 75-minute meeting — that included a tête-à-tête of the two leaders — also paid tribute to the "courageous" role that Jordan took to make peace with Israel and the contribution it has made to lead others in the same direction.

On Iraq, the two leaders agreed that means should be found to alleviate the suffering of the people of Iraq and "at the same time Baghdad should fulfill all its obligations under the relevant U.N. resolutions."

They also supported ongoing moves to restructure the United Nations "to reflect the changes in the

(Continued on page 7)

King, Crown Prince pay tribute to Japan's continuous support

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein on Monday paid tribute to Japan's continued support for Jordan and described his talks with Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama as very good.

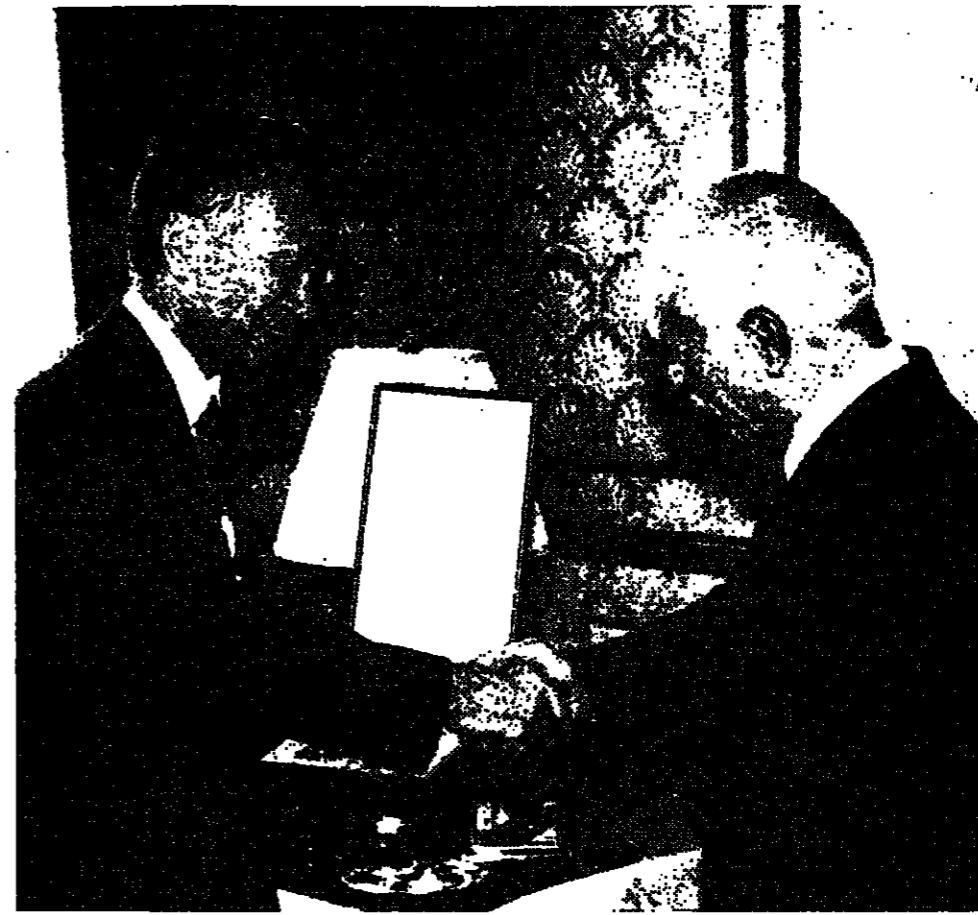
The King, in comments to Jordan Television, after his talks with Mr. Murayama, said the Japanese prime minister's visit to the Middle East was extremely important, given the role that Japan plays in the international scene.

The King also expressed hope that Japan's participation in next month's Middle East and North Africa economic summit would be active and effective, a theme echoed by Mr. Murayama in comments at a press conference.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan meanwhile voiced appreciation of Mr. Murayama's announcement that Japan was granting additional assistance worth \$200 million to Jordan. The move affirms the Japanese position, which has always been supportive of Jordan, the Crown Prince said.

The Crown Prince also referred to the highly successful visit he paid to Japan in May, when the Kingdom held a

(Continued on page 7)



His Majesty King Hussein on Monday presents the Decorated Al Nahda Medal to Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama in appreciation of his role in promoting Japanese-Jordanian relations (photo by Yousef Allan)

De Charette arrives for review of ties, summit, Iraq and Bosnia

By a Jordan Times
Staff Reporter

AMMAN — French Foreign Minister Hervé de Charette arrived here late Monday on a 24-hour visit for talks on the Middle East peace process, the developments in Iraq and Franco-Jordanian relations.

In comments at a press conference in Cairo after talks with his Egyptian counterpart Amr Musa, the French minister also indicated that another key theme for his discussions with His Majesty King Hussein, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti will be the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, where a U.S.-brokered peace plan appears to be making headway.

In an arrival statement, Mr. De Charette described the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit, which will be held in Amman in October, as a grand event.

France will play an active role in the economic summit, he said. France will be represented at the summit by the ministers of industry and trade as well as foreign affairs, he announced.

He said that his talks here will focus on Iraq and other issues of mutual interest.

The French official said his country's military presence in Bosnia-Herzegovina and the

formation of a rapid deployment force have speeded up the process of resolving the Bosnian problem.

He added that European mediation efforts and American intervention in the former Yugoslav have increased the possibility of reaching a peaceful settlement.

Mr. De Charette, paying his first visit to the Middle East after joining the cabinet of President Jacques Chirac in June, described his talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Alexandria as fruitful and constructive.

The minister is accompanied on the visit by the director of the foreign ministry's Middle East and North Africa Department, Dennis Bauchard, and other officials.

Mr. De Charette's talks with Mr. Mubarak and with Foreign Minister Amr Musa in Cairo focused on the Middle East peace process and a financial protocol to be signed later this year.

"France supports the peace

(Continued on page 7)

Arrests continue in Sudan

CAIRO (Agencies) — Leaflets in Khartoum called for a renewal of protests as Sudanese police arrested 20 more people in connection with last week's wave of violent demonstrations, the Arabic Daily Al Sharq Al Awsat said on Monday.

The leaflets distributed in the capital called for a resumption of demonstrations to join in, the paper said.

The London-based daily, received in Cairo, did not say who was distributing the leaflets.

The paper reported that "tension remained high" in Khartoum, Nilein and Sudan universities in the capital a week after 3,000 students descended into the streets of Khartoum in protests that left three dead by official count.

Informed sources told the paper that 20 had been arrested in the past two days from "various locations throughout the capital."

The arrests came as part of police raids against "those" they consider responsible for organising and mobilising the demonstrations" which erupted in Khartoum on Sept. 11 then spread to other major cities the next day.

Security forces arrested up to 500 people, including 270 students, in Khartoum and other cities during the protests and in the days immediately following, the Sudanese Human Rights Organisation (SHRO) said.

Sudan announced on Sunday that "all students arrested during the demonstrations have been released, including those against whom there is proof of their participation in riots."

The four ministers also discussed means to increase regional trade and economic cooperation and agreed to continue consultations, officials said.

Minister of Industry and Trade Ali Abul Ragheb said after the talks with Israeli Economy and Planning Minister Yossi Beilin, Egypt's Trade Minister Mohammad Mahmoud and PNA's Finance Minister Mohammad Nashashibi: "We have identified a number of projects to be presented to the (MENA) summit."

The projects will be presented in a joint paper to the summit.

The four ministers agreed to set up a technical committee to draw up the "appropriate mechanisms" for these projects, which include link-

ing the electricity grids of the four countries, roads, tourism expansion schemes, bridges across the River Jordan and telecommunications.

Later in the day, Mr. Abul Ragheb held a separate meeting with Mr. Nashashibi and discussed joint Jordanian-Palestinian projects that could be presented at the summit as well as visions of trilateral — Jordanian, Palestinian and Israeli — arrangement to boost economic cooperation.

Mr. Beilin, Dr. Khalaf and their Palestinian counterpart Nabil Shaath are expected to meet in Bonn next month to give what officials describe as a new impetus to economic cooperation among the three sides.

A Harvard study released in July recommended that, given the complementarities and disparities among the three economies, the three sides should strive for eventual free trade agreement among them, starting with Israel giving preferential treatment to Jordanian products and Jordan giving similar status to Palestinian products and relaxing controls on imports of Israeli products.

No Jordanian official has formally commented on the recommendation.

Israel, PLO closer to deal, but likely to miss deadline

malising their agreements... we hope they resolve those differences and are in position to reach agreement as soon as possible," he said.

Although both sides hoped to initial an agreement this week, Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said they expected to miss Thursday's target date for a signing ceremony.

"We expect to initial an agreement here by Thursday," said a PLO official at the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Taba.

In Washington, the White House said it understands the difficulties faced by Israel and the PLO in reaching agreement and would not consider it a setback if they missed the Thursday target.

"We continue to encourage the parties to make progress," White House spokesman Mike McCurry said.

Asked if the Clinton administration considered this a setback, Mr. McCurry said, "No, we consider it progress when they are meeting and dealing with the very difficult issues."

PLO leader Yasser Arafat, asked if he expected to reach agreement by Tuesday, placed the onus on Israel, saying: "Do you think anybody can dance tango alone?"

During a break in his talks with Mr. Peres, Mr. Arafat told reporters in the Palestinian-ruled Gaza Strip that many obstacles re-

mained.

Israel's concerns for 400 Jewish settlers surrounded by more than 120,000 Kilometres has held up a deal to redeploy its troops in Hebron. The Palestinians say special Israeli arrangements could be made to protect the settlers, but only temporarily.

Hebron Mayor Mustafa Nasrullah, who is taking part in the Taba negotiations, told Israel Radio: "The settlers must be evacuated because they are the source of the problem."

The sides hope to bridge the remaining gaps, including drawing up maps to demarcate the borders.

"The problem over the map is that Israel wants to make Palestinian cities and villages islands," a senior PLO security official told Reuters.

"This would cause administrative confusion and con-

(Continued on page 7)

Croat-Muslim gains split Bosnia along U.S. plans

Shots narrowly
miss Rikind

BRITISH FOREIGN
Secretary Malcolm Rifkind
narrowly escaped serious
injury in Sarajevo Monday
when a volley of shots hit
close to where he stood,

British embassy officials
said.

Mr. Rifkind was visiting a British reconstruction project in the Bosnian capital close to frontlines when the incident happened. "There was a shot as he got out of the car nearby and then a volley of gunfire," a British embassy official said.

"We cannot be very sure if it was aimed at him," the official said.

Some reports said a shell had smashed into a house a split second after Mr. Rifkind walked past it.

negotiations and send the Serb-led Yugoslav army to reinforce their ethnic brethren in Bosnia.

Spokesman Chris Vernon

said that the territorial split

between forces of the Muslim-Croat federation and the Serbs is now about 50-50 per cent and tilting towards the Bosnian army's favour.

He said the Bosnian army claimed the split was 52 for the federation and 48 for the Serbs, figures he could not immediately confirm.

The rebel Serbs on Sunday received an extra 72-hour reprieve from more North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) airstrikes because NATO and U.N. commanders deemed they had made substantial progress in removing heavy guns from Sarajevo.

While the official toll from the unrest stands at three, doctors at Khartoum's hospitals report a number of bodies in the morgue since the events of last week, Al Sharq Al Awsat said.

The bodies have not been officially identified because relatives "have been forced to enter the morgue," the paper said.

Opposition sources say six died in the demonstrations.

(Continued on page 7)

negotiations and send the Serb-led Yugoslav army to reinforce their ethnic brethren in Bosnia.

Spokesman Chris Vernon

UAE rejects criticism over death sentence for Filipina

Justice Ministry notes verdict subject to appeal and cannot be carried out without president's approval

DUBAI (Agencies) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) on Monday rejected the wave of protests triggered by the death penalty issued against a young Filipina maid, saying it was dictated by Islamic law.

The UAE Justice Ministry added, however, that President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan could ultimately prevent the execution of the sentence issued Saturday against Sarah Balabagan after she was found guilty of murdering her employer.

"The UAE implements Islamic Sharia law. What has been said on the sentence issued against Sarah Balabagan is surprising and distorts reality," the ministry said in a statement carried by the official agency WAM.

"The accused has the right to appeal," it added, also pointing out that the "death sentence cannot be executed without the president's approval."

In the meantime defence lawyers can appeal twice: first to the appeal court and then to the Federal High Court, the statement said.

The ministry said Ms. Balabagan was 27 years old and her employer, Mohammad Abdullah Al Baloushi whom she stabbed to death last year, was 70.

Ms. Balabagan's defence lawyers say she is 16 and her identification papers were forged by the recruiting agent to thwart the Philippines' law against child labour.

Ms. Balabagan said she stabbed her employer in self-defence after he tried to rape her.

But the Islamic court in Al Ain, 160 kilometres east of the capital Abu Dhabi, said there was no evidence to back her claim.

The death sentence triggered a wave of angry protest



Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan

in the Philippines and from support groups for overseas workers.

Philippine Foreign Secretary Domingo Silazon on Monday said President Fidel Ramos would make a personal plea for clemency in March.

Philippines officials have appealed for calm and reiterated their belief that justice would prevail in the UAE courts.

"I cannot comment on what will happen if the appeal fails," said Mr. Silazon. "I believe Sarah's innocence will win her freedom."

But some officials and lawyers from the Philippines who have defended Ms. Balabagan in the UAE have said an execution would unleash widespread anger back home.

If the Al Ain appeal court maintains the death sentence, the case will go to the Abu Dhabi supreme court. Sheikh Zayed must approve an execution if the death sentence sticks, sources said.

Philippines officials expect a protracted legal struggle but Ms. Balabagan's chief lawyer said he thought media attention would accelerate the appeal process.

"We are also thinking of bringing a senior official from Manila to intercede on Sarah's behalf with officials here. That will probably include Sheikh Zayed."

The verdict stunned Filipinos in the Gulf and at home and prompted Philippine officials to step up diplomatic lobbying to save Ms. Balabagan.

Chief defence lawyer Mohammad Al-Amin had planned to file an appeal on Monday but he told Reuters: "I decided to delay the matter so we could have more time to review the verdict."

Outrage at the death penalty imposed on Ms. Balabagan, a Muslim, spread rapidly in the largely Roman Catholic Philippines, still angered by Singapore's execution of a Filipina maid in March.

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FRANCO-JORDANIAN TIES: Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti confers with his French counterpart Herve de Charette after receiving him upon arrival late Monday for a 24-hour visit (see page 1)

7,000 Palestinian teachers to be trained as self-rule poll officials

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Voter registration classes will start this month for 7,000 Palestinian teachers, a Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official said Monday, a day after Israel and the PLO wrapped up an agreement on holding Palestinian elections.

Under the accord, the Palestinian self-rule council running the West Bank and Gaza Strip will have 82 members. Palestinians will cast one vote for council members and another for the head of the Palestinian Authority, a post now filled by Yasser Arafat.

A date for the elections will be announced by Mr. Arafat once Israel and the PLO sign an overall agreement on Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank.

The United States has pushed for a signing ceremony this Thursday, but negotiators remained deadlocked Monday over the fate of the West Bank town of Hebron.

From the date of the signing, Israel will have 100 days to pull its troops out of six West Bank towns in advance of Palestinian elections, Israeli and Palestinian officials said Monday.

Israeli government spokesman Uri Dromi said Monday that Israel made concessions to the PLO on the elections,

in hopes of being repaid with Palestinian flexibility on security issues.

"For them, the most important issue is sovereignty. For us, it's security," Mr. Dromi said. "We made it clear that on security, we cannot compromise."

Israel initially wanted a council of only 20 members, saying it should not be larger than a normal-sized cabinet. The PLO insisted on a 100-member council that is to serve as a national assembly. The council will have some legislative powers.

Israel also made some concessions concerning the participation of the 155,000 Palestinian residents of Jerusalem in the elections.

Israel initially said the Jerusalem Palestinians could vote, but not run for office. In a compromise, the two sides agreed that Palestinians with homes in both the West Bank and in Jerusalem can run for the council.

Jerusalem residents will cast their ballots by mail, but there will be no polling station in the city.

Disputes over voting procedures in Jerusalem had held up agreement on elections for several months.

Israel wanted to avoid any arrangements that could be seen as undermining its claim to sovereignty over all of the city, including the eastern

sector it seized in the 1967 Mideast war and later "annexed."

The Palestinians want East Jerusalem as a future capital.

The Palestinians were busy Monday with preparations for the elections even though the 100-day countdown has not yet begun.

On Sept. 30, training courses will begin for 7,000 teachers from the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The trainees will register voters and on election day be posted at the polling stations to help those casting their ballots, said Abdul Nasser Maki, in charge of elections preparations in the West Bank town of Jericho.

He said 1,756 polling stations will be set up in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem will be divided into 16 electoral districts.

Mr. Maki said election organisers did not know how many eligible voters there were, saying the population figures handed over by Israel's military government for the West Bank and Gaza were outdated.

The teachers to be trained later this month will go from house to house in towns and villages to register voters. Everyone older than 17 is eligible to vote, Mr. Maki said.

Reports from Baidoa said

the 17 expatriates were being confined to their offices after their bodyguards were disarmed by Aideed's militiamen who dismantled their radio sets.

The foreigners would be asked to obtain residence permits from Gen. Aideed's interim administration, sources close to the warlord said.

Gen. Aideed's supporters elected him "interim president" of Somalia in June. He has since dubbed his militiamen Somalia's "national army" and has embarked on a campaign to disarm opponents and establish himself as Somalia's pre-eminent leader.

Mr. Ali Mahdi also claims to be "interim president."

Baidoa was reported calm on Monday following sporadic exchanges of fire on Sunday. A rocket-propelled grenade exploded at the town's main market.

Militiamen loyal to Aideed erected check points around the town.

Ali Mahdi threatens to declare war on Aideed

MOGADISHU (AP) — Somali warlord Ali Mahdi Mohammad threatened Monday to declare an "all-out war" against his rival Mohammad Farah Aideed who captured the inland town of Baidoa unless the south Mogadishu强人 withdraws his militiamen within 24 hours.

General Aideed led some 600 fighters in a blitzkrieg to take control of the town on Sunday and detained 17 expatriate aid workers there, saying he was putting them in "protective custody."

Travellers arriving in Mogadishu from Baidoa said at least 10 people were killed or wounded during clashes between Gen. Aideed's fighters and a small resistance group from the Rahanweyn sub-clan.

Mr. Ali Mahdi told reporters here that Gen. Aideed would be held responsible for the "catastrophe" that would ensue from his latest attempt to extend his control beyond south Mogadishu.

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JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

14:30 Captain Planet

14:30 M.A.N.T.S.

15:00 Road to Adventure

16:00 Sarah

17:00 Varieties

17:30 Monds Engloutis

17:30 Varieties

18:00 News in English

18:15 Eut Pas Rover

18:30 News Headlines

19:35 You Bet Your Life

20:00 Piglet Files

21:30 The Gold and the Beautiful

21:30 The Detectives

22:00 Varieties

22:25 Trade Wind (Part II)

22:30 Glass Virgin

23:59 Grace Under Fire

00:30 Varieties

Fair

00:17 (Series) Dates

12:20 Dhuhr

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Powell slams Clinton, says U.S. weakened in world

WASHINGTON (R) — Retired General Colin Powell, who is considering a run for president, said he opposed U.S. intervention in Bosnia and was sharply critical of President Bill Clinton in an interview released Sunday.

In the interview with the New Yorker magazine, Gen. Powell said the United States "ought to send a clear signal that we're not going to get involved in this war, and it's not going to end until people are tired of fighting one another."

"For three years we've been giving these mixed signals so the signals are worthless, and therefore we are weakened and cheapened in the eyes of the world. We

have a very bad reputation around the world now as an incontinent political entity."

"It's hurt his statesmanship really badly," said Gen. Powell, a career soldier who was head of the joint chiefs of staff during the Gulf War.

Gen. Powell started a 26-city tour to promote his autobiography Saturday, a tour many observers see as a prelude to announcing his candidacy for the 1996 presidential election.

In the interview, Gen. Powell was also critical of former Presidents Ronald Reagan and George Bush, saying they were "wanting" in their attitudes toward racism.

"Even though Reagan and Bush are two of the closest people in my life, I've got to say this (racism) was an area where I found them wanting."

"They were never sensitised to it. They never had to live with it. They were never close to it," Gen. Powell said.

The son of poor Jamaican immigrants, Gen. Powell was raised in the Bronx and rose to become the first black to head the U.S. military.

In the interview, Gen. Powell also took a strong stand backing affirmative action.

"One of my Republican friends had the nerve to send me one of their newsletters a few weeks ago saying that

we had to get rid of affirmative action because we couldn't keep putting these programmes in place for allegations of 'vague and ancient wrongs.'

"I almost went crazy. Vague? Vague? Denny's wouldn't serve four Black Secret Service agents guarding the president of the United States," he said.

Gen. Powell added that if he ran he hoped the vote would be colour-blind.

"I really don't want to be elected the first black American president. I don't want to be the poster child for the brothers (street slang for blacks) or for guilty white liberals."

Protesters attack trains, explode crude bombs in Bangladesh

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP) — Opposition activists attacked a passenger train, uprooted the railroad track and exploded crude bombs as a three-day anti-government strike paralysed life in Bangladesh, police and news reports said Monday.

At least 50 passengers were injured when protesters stopped a passenger train and smashed some coaches in Chandpur district, 64 kilometres east of Dhaka Sunday, local newspapers said.

They also damaged railroad tracks at two places in Chandpur district, Bangladesh Patrika said.

At least 400 people were injured in clashes between rival political groups on the first two days of the strike — Saturday and Sunday, police said. The strike will end early Tuesday.

Nearly 200 protesters, most of them street children,

have been arrested by police. The strike was called to press for the resignation of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia. It will end at dawn Tuesday.

On Monday, opposition activists set off crude bombs in different parts of Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh, witnesses said. No casualties were immediately reported. Crude bombs are tin pots filled with explosives.

The streets looked deserted as shops remained closed. Trash piled up on street corners as the protesters did not allow garbage-cleaning trucks to ply.

Thousands of opposition activists marched through the streets of Dhaka, chanting: "Khaleda Zia, you must resign now."

Industrial workers squatted on railroads and highways in different parts of the country.

About 5,000 police and

paramilitary troops patrolled the capital city. On Saturday, some government officials walking to their offices were stripped naked by the protesters.

The strike halted train movement and severely disrupted ferry services and air flights, United News of Bangladesh news agency said.

Three main opposition parties — Awami League, Jatiya Party and Jamaat-E-Islami — accuse Mrs. Zia of incompetence and corruption. They want her to resign and call for general elections under a caretaker government. Opposition lawmakers have already resigned their parliamentary seats.

The prime minister has rejected the opposition demand. She has offered to resign 30 days before the next election scheduled early next year.

N.Ireland loyalists to visit Dublin

DUBLIN (R) — Spokesmen for Protestant gunmen who bombed Dublin in the past in their battle to keep Northern Ireland British return to the Irish capital this week to talk peace.

The unprecedented visit by so-called loyalist groups will be a rare ray of sunshine onto a Northern Ireland peace process which is overshadowed by a bitter deadlock over disarming Northern Ireland guerrillas.

Their visit is seen by Irish officials as a payout of the peace dividend which was announced when the IRA and the loyalists, the IRA's most bitter foes, declared twin ceasefires one year ago.

An Anglo-Irish peace drive is currently paralysed by the refusal of the Irish Republican Army (IRA) to give up a single weapon in an arsenal used to fight British rule for 25 years.

But the visits by the Progressive Unionist Party (PUP) and the Ulster Democratic party (UDP) Tuesday and Wednesday are seen as evidence that the peace process can bear fruit.

They are also viewed as proof that mainstream Protestant parties in Northern Ireland, so-called Union-

ist groups with a dozen seats in the British parliament, are out of touch with a growing body of Protestant opinion in the province.

David Ervine, leader of the PUP, is of of saying that for 25 years Northern Ireland's Unionist parties lived under the banner of "Ulster says no".

"And where did 25 years of saying no get us," he told Reuters in a recent interview. "Nowhere. It's time to live up to the new realities on this island," he said.

He is expected to discuss the disarming of guerrillas, the main stumbling block in Anglo-Irish efforts to put a more solid foundation under the ceasefires and build a lasting peace.

Neither the PUP nor the DUP hold seats in the British parliament but their part in brokering a ceasefire by loyalist gunmen one year ago gives them an important political voice.

They see themselves as the mirror image of Sinn Fein, the political arm of the Irish Republican Army, which seeks to become a fully-fledged political party free from any links to bloodshed. For 25 years loyalist gunmen saw Dublin as the cen-

tre of a plot to end Northern Ireland's British status and merge it with the predominantly Roman Catholic Irish Republic.

The Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF) and Ulster Freedom Fighters (UFF) killed 900 Catholics in Northern Ireland in a cold-blooded campaign against the community from which the IRA draws support.

Their most recent bombings were a 1993 UVF attack on a Sinn Fein function at a Dublin pub in which one person was killed and a bungled attempt to blow up a train at a Dublin station.

The loyalists' inept handling of Semtex plastic explosive is in marked contrast to the expertise of the IRA, whose bombers are thought to hold about one tonne of the substance and refuse to give it up until Britain holds all-party peace talks.

But the London government says there will be no new round-table talks for a lasting settlement involving Sinn Fein or the loyalists until their gunmen start giving up their guns.

Japan searches for missing typhoon victims

TOKYO (AP) — Police continued their search Monday for three people washed away by the rough waters in one of the most powerful storms to hit Japan since World War II.

By early Monday, typhoon Oscar veered off to the northeast of Japan early Monday after doing less damage than expected. It was downgraded to a low pressure system, and sunshine returned to around Tokyo.

On Sunday, Oscar's winds reached 174 kilometres per hour (108 mph), making it comparable to typhoons that killed 1,269 people in 1958 and 5,098 in 1959 in the Tokyo area.

One man was killed Sunday in a landslide in Shizuo-

ka, 95 miles west of Tokyo. And in Chiba, just east of Tokyo, a man died after strong winds apparently knocked him into an irrigation reservoir.

On Monday, police dispatched helicopters and rescue teams in search of the people still missing since Sunday.

A 47-year-old man and his 4-year-old child who were washed away by high waves from a beach at Oiso, about 65 kilometres (40 miles) southwest of Tokyo, as well as a fisherman who fell into a river in Gifu, 270 kilometres (170 miles) west of Tokyo, are still missing, local police said.

Weather stations predicted that both typhoons are to veer off to the Pacific Ocean before hitting Japan.

120 houses were destroyed or damaged by Oscar. They said landslides were reported at 49 places and heavy rain flooded 185 homes in Tokyo and six other nearby prefectures (states).

Two smaller typhoons are traveling southwest of the Japanese archipelago. Typhoon Polly, the thirteenth of the season, is currently 1,700 kilometres (1,054 miles) southwest of Tokyo with top winds of 108 kph (67 mph). Ryan is currently off the coast of southern China with winds up to 90 kph (56 mph).

The pro-democracy camp made up of sympathetic independents and smaller affiliated parties took the balance and the pro-business lobby took one.

Each person with a job gets a second vote to elect candidates based in so-called functional constituencies based on professions. These elect 30 Legislative Council members.

The Democratic Party won 11 of the 20 Geographical Constituency seats against the two secured by the DAB.

The pro-democracy camp followed a decision by the Supreme Court in June to overturn on constitutional grounds a ruling by King

Birendra which dissolved parliament. The king had ordered parliament dissolved at the request of then-Prime Minister Man Mohan Adhikari, who claimed it was inhibiting actions of his government.

The government, headed by Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba earlier said he would distribute 18 portfolios he was holding himself after the government won the vote of confidence.

President of Nepali Congress, Krishna Prasad Bhattarai, earlier expressed confidence that the coalition government "will run for next four years." he said that political parties should let the government work "independently and efficiently" without interfering.

The government change followed a decision by the Supreme Court in June to overturn on constitutional grounds a ruling by King

Birendra which dissolved parliament. The king had ordered parliament dissolved at the request of then-Prime Minister Man Mohan Adhikari, who claimed it was inhibiting actions of his government.

The new government has only a five-member cabinet, but Mr. Deuba earlier said he would distribute 18 portfolios he was holding himself after the government won the vote of confidence.

President of Nepali Congress, Krishna Prasad Bhattarai, earlier expressed confidence that the coalition government "will run for next four years." he said that political parties should let the government work "independently and efficiently" without interfering.

"It is only in the Communist system where the government is dictated by its party," Mr. Bhattarai added.

NCP-UML spokesmen

have cast doubts on the coalition government's ability to remain in office even for six months and have voiced hopes of returning to power.

But observers say the new coalition has a good chance of succeeding in view of the backing it enjoys from several veteran leaders and past prime ministers. They include Surya Bahadur Thapa and Lokendra Bahadur Chand of the Rastriya Prajatantra Party as well as NC's Bhattarai and Girija Prasad Koirala.

Mr. Thapa and Mr. Chand are veterans of the days when Nepal was under the authoritarian Panchayat rule while Mr. Bhattarai and Mr. Koirala have led the country since the shift to multi-party democracy in 1990.

Queen mother bans Camilla from official gatherings

LONDON (AP) — Prince Charles' hopes of easing his paramour into his public life were dashed by his grandmother, a newspaper reported. Queen Elizabeth the queen mother has twice refused Prince Charles' requests to bring Camilla Parker Bowles to official functions at her residences, the Sunday Express quoted an unidentified senior royal adviser as saying. Prince Charles had hoped to invite Mrs. Parker Bowles to events at the queen mother's residences in Wales and Scotland because she still sets family policy on such matters, the newspaper said. His mother, Queen Elizabeth, would likely file suit and refuse to allow Mrs. Parker Bowles to attend even those functions when the queen mother was absent. The queen mother has no objections to Mrs. Parker Bowles per se, but wants to prevent her grandson from divorcing Princess Diana while he is heir to the throne. Prince Charles reportedly wants to ease Mrs. Parker Bowles into public life and eventually marry her. The adviser quoted the 95-year-old queen mother as saying, "the British people would never accept a divorced king and queen. It would divide the country." She would prefer Prince Charles, 48, to renounce his claim to the throne in favour of his elder son, Prince William. In that case, a marriage to Mrs. Parker Bowles, 47, could be countenanced by the royal family. Prince Charles and Princess Diana separated in 1992. Last year he admitted publicly that he had been unfaithful to Princess Diana. An authorised biography later named the other woman as Mrs. Parker Bowles. This year, Mrs. Parker Bowles divorced her husband, increasing speculation that the prince sought to bring her closer into his life.

Liz Taylor released from hospital

SANTA MONICA, California (R) — Actress Elizabeth Taylor went home three days after she was admitted to a Santa Monica hospital for treatment of an irregular heartbeat. Taylor's doctor said the remains were first found in 1985, and were quietly covered up with concrete again. Speaking of such Soviet practices, Patriarch Alexey told the television: "You cannot walk over those who have contributed to the well-being of our land and have helped its people." The remains of Nicholas II and his family may be buried in Yekaterinburg where they were executed in 1918, or in St. Petersburg's St. Peter and Paul Fortress where other ruling members of the Romanov dynasty have been laid to rest, he said. The remains of the grand duke, meanwhile, were moved at the request of President Boris Yeltsin of Moscow for 15 years until his murder in 1905, were transported from a long-forgotten grave in a Kremlin corner to the Novospassky Monastery. The church's crypt and the grand duke's remains were discovered under the parking lot during a renovation in the Kremlin last July, according to the daily Moskovsky Komsomolets. Russia's Independent Television said the remains were first found in 1985, and were quietly covered up with concrete again.

Russian Orthodox Patriarch Alexey II led the somber ceremony, attended by dozens of state officials and other notables. Members of the royal Romanov family wept, standing next to Moscow Mayor Yuri Luzhkov and other guests.

"We made an enormous step that will open a bright path both for Moscow and the entire Russia," Grand Duchess Maria Romanova, clad in a black mourning dress, said after the ceremony.

The event set the scene for the long-awaited reburial of the grand duke's more famous nephew.

American and Russian experts confirmed earlier this month that bones unearthed in the Ural Mountains in 1991 were those of Nicholas II and his family and servants. The announcement set off widespread speculation that the family will be given an official, religious burial early in 1996. That would be a huge

elaborately decorated chapel, lined with centuries-old frescoes and icons, reopened for services in 1991, and the Russian Orthodox Church is renovating the rest of the facility.

Before Sunday's service, workers casually cleared construction materials from the monastery's main square, piling them against its crumbling outer walls.

Don't rule out a Bodyguard sequel

NEW YORK (AP) — Forget *Return To Waterworld*, but don't rule out a *Bodyguard* sequel. "The script would have to be great. People know how I feel about writing, so it has to be something special," Kevin Costner told Entertainment weekly in the Sept. 22 issue. There's one second coming the actor will never make happen. "I still watch *Field Of Dreams* and tear up," Costner said. "We could never do it justice in a part two."

Seclusion appeals to Anthony Quinn

BRISTOL, Rhode Island (AP) — Seeking privacy and comfort, veteran actor Anthony Quinn has purchased a six-hectare (15-acre) estate in a remote corner of the Narragansett Bay for \$11.45 million. "The seclusion appealed to him," said real estate agent Richard Dower. Quinn has nothing to fear from his neighbours in the upscale area, who include Ira Magaziner, a top adviser to President Bill Clinton.



Opinion & Analysis

JORDAN TIMES, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 1995

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Room for Japan

THE JAPANESE prime minister's visit to Jordan and other neighbouring countries comes at a time when the region is in the midst of a transformation process that will produce sea changes in both the area's economic and political relations. That there is room for a stronger Japanese role in this process is a given. And that both Japan and the countries of the region will mutually benefit from stronger ties is also a fact.

The opportunities that the peace process will avail to the region and those who deal with it are enormous. But utilising these opportunities will require a partnership between Middle Eastern states and countries with the necessary funds and technological know-how. Japan is a suitable partner that countries of the area will find worthy of appreciation, especially for its experience in achieving economic growth. So are the markets of the region extremely necessary for a Japanese industry that is facing stiff competition from other industrialised nations.

The Middle East needs Japanese investments and skills. Japan needs the region's markets. Cooperation thus should be helpful to both parties.

But economics is not the only area in which Japan can play a strong role in the Middle East. Japan has become an economic superpower which can no longer afford to play a marginal role in international politics. Its economic might needs to be accompanied by a political role that ensures balance in every field of international cooperation. Japan has a vested interest in seeing regional conflicts resolved on the basis of fairness and justice because this will lead to stability which in turn will create markets.

In the Middle East, Japan enjoys much more respect and appreciation than many other world powers due to its history of friendly ties with the Arab World. Tapping on this reservoir of mutual respect and goodwill is something which Japan must do in order to serve its interest as well as those of its friends in the region.

Jordan stands out as one of the strongest friends Japan has in this part of the world. The two states have for long enjoyed a solid relationship based on understanding and cooperation. The Kingdom is now opening its doors to international investors and a few can argue against the availability of economic opportunities in the Kingdom. Japanese investors will find more than profitable projects in the Kingdom. They will find a culture that respects theirs and a political system that harnesses ties with the Japanese people.

It is in this context of appreciation of the support that Japan has offered the Kingdom throughout the years that we welcome Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama in Amman. And it is with hope for stronger ties and more cooperation that Jordan looks to its future relations with Japan.

Many nations are trying to find a place for themselves and their economies in the changing Middle East. Japan has earned itself a clear edge over many of them by adopting a balanced and consistent policy towards the region. Jordan and Japan can set an example for the kind of partnership that should exist between the Middle East and that part of the world, namely Asia, in which Japan is a leader.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Ra'i daily on Monday welcomed a visit to Jordan by Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama and expressed deep appreciation of Japan's continued aid to the Kingdom. Jordan is deeply grateful to Japan for contributing to Jordan's development economically and socially. By helping Jordan, Japan is contributing most effectively towards enhancing the Middle East peace process, said the paper. It said that Japan being one of the richest nations can through economic assistance play a leading role in the Kingdom's development projects and contribute to the region's stability. On the political level Japan can give impetus to the multilateral phase of the peace process. By maintaining strong contacts with and providing economic assistance to the countries of this region, and by providing political contributions to the stability of Jordan and neighbouring countries, Japan is thus encouraging regional cooperation and contributing to the building of peace and shaping a better future for the coming generations, the newspaper said.

A writer in Al Dastour called for monthly meetings between journalists and editors of the weekly papers and the Minister of Information with whom they can exchange views about the on-going developments to help the tabloids improve their performance. Mohammad Subeili said that the government cannot put the blame on these weeklies for the way they have been performing and cannot hold them responsible for harming Jordan's relations with other countries by their reports because the editors are not invited to meetings with the King nor do they have access to the minister of information said the writer. He claimed that the weeklies have been complaining of the government's behaviour and not giving them serious attention. But he said the weeklies are becoming influential and affecting the views of a large sector of the public in the country.

The View from Fourth Circle

Two years after Oslo: Logic 1, lunatics 0

By Rami G. Khouri

TWO YEARS after the signing of the Oslo agreement between the PLO and Israel, the balance sheet of peace-making is more than mildly impressive. Like the conflict between the Arab and Zionist identities in Palestine and the wider Middle East for most of this century, the process of making peace has stumbled along from one mini-crisis to another — but in the stumbling it has made significant, incremental progress.

Several things need to be recognised about the Palestinian-Israeli peace process, the most important being that the process itself continues apace. Implementation of the Oslo accord is moving ahead, despite its considerable flaws. Both sides are expending more, rather than less, energy and thought today on the mechanics of peace-making than they were a year ago.

The opponents of peace have been soundly checked to date, but they have not been fully defeated. The Israeli Likud and the Palestinian alliance of Islamists and lefties wait in the wings like ideological vultures who feed on the carcasses of their people's political discontent and despair. But they have had little to feed on in the last two years, because the majorities on both sides have clearly indicated their willingness to pursue Oslo's fuzzy promise.

In this respect, it is important to note how the issue of terror against Israelis — notably bombings of Israeli civilian buses by Palestinians Islamists — has largely lost its political impact. With every new bombing, the Israeli government declares its determination to continue the talks even quicker than it did after the previous bombing. Terror has backfired against the bombers. It has solidified centrist Israeli public support to continue with the peace process, because most Israelis now realise the separation between Israel and Palestine is probably the best way to ensure Israel's security; and, it has given Yasser Arafat and his 18,000 guards good reason to come down hard on the Islamists, resulting in a considerable loss of Islamist face and credibility among Palestinians (to the point where the Islamists, at least the Hamas Islamists, are ready to make a political deal with Arafat & Guards).

It is striking today how nonchalantly Israeli government ministers — not leftie lunatic weirdos, but government ministers

— speak of the imminent birth of a sovereign Palestinian state. Foreign dignitaries (the latest, this week, are from South Africa and Japan) routinely visit Orient House in Jerusalem, the unofficial PLO headquarters. Most Israelis find this politically marginal, except for West Jerusalem Mayor Yossi Olmer, whom most Israelis also find politically marginal.

The gradual, de facto birth of a sovereign Palestinian state in Palestine is taking place in the minds of many Arab and Israeli people, and in symbols and trappings of statehood, before it actually happens on the ground in a de jure manner.

Recognising this, over one-third of Jewish settlers and colonists in the West Bank have already expressed some desire or willingness to return to Israel proper, if they are compensated financially. How interesting — nobody has officially asked them to leave, yet one-third already are emotionally packing their bags. Most of the rest will follow in due course.

Oslo allowed Jordan and Israel to sign their peace accord, and initiated a series of bilateral and multilateral Israeli contacts with others in this region. Our region's formal acceptance of Israel as one of many native Semitic sons will contribute positively to the narrower Israel-Palestine negotiations; justice and peace will advance parallel with the dynamic by which Israelis gradually disengage their memories of persecution at the hands of mostly Christian Europeans from their future vision of acceptance by mostly Muslim Arabs.

This suggests to me that the single most important achievement of the last two years has been in the psychological rather than in the political or territorial realm.

The Oslo process, despite the continuing frustration, fear and even humiliation that it engenders among both Israelis and Palestinians, is proving to be a huge logistical success. It is providing the hitherto elusive platform from which both sides feel confident to swim into uncharted territory, because they now recognise that they will both swim there together as neighbours and partners, rather than as predatory adversaries.

By providing the space, time and modalities for ongoing negotiations among two parties that had viewed one another as existential foes, the Oslo process has permitted the majority among the Palestinian and Israeli political leadership to make the difficult but critical psychological transition that is a prerequisite for genuine justice and peace: not only does each side now view the other as a credible and reliable partner, but in fact each side needs the other now in order to make the peace process work, and so to ward off the Palestinian and Israeli ideological vultures back home who hover overhead, waiting for the negotiators to make a

fatal mistake.

This procedural, psychological breakthrough has occurred at the expense of substantive, political progress. The amazing thing about the Oslo process is that, two years on, it has yet to seriously address substantive issues of land, water, refugees, Zionist colonies and settlements, Jerusalem and other such key subjects. The achievements to date are psychologically compelling, but politically and territorially superficial.

Of course, Oslo was not designed to address the tough core issues until Spring 1996. The situation on the ground may require a speeding up of the Oslo timetable. Situations such as armed Zionist settler colonialism in Hebron — not only right-wing lunatic weirdos but armed settlers formally protected by the army of the state of Israel have forced both sides to take a huge step forward into the realm of the substantive, finally to make the transition from psychological massaging to national arm-wrestling.

My personal guess is that the Oslo process will proceed and succeed, because of the proven efficacy to date of its single most important element: the willingness to compromise politically in the short term, in order to allow for continued psychological detente that will achieve more substantive political gains in the long term. As long as both sides feel that short-term compromise brings them long-term reward, this dynamic will continue to achieve progressively more substantive political and territorial breakthroughs.

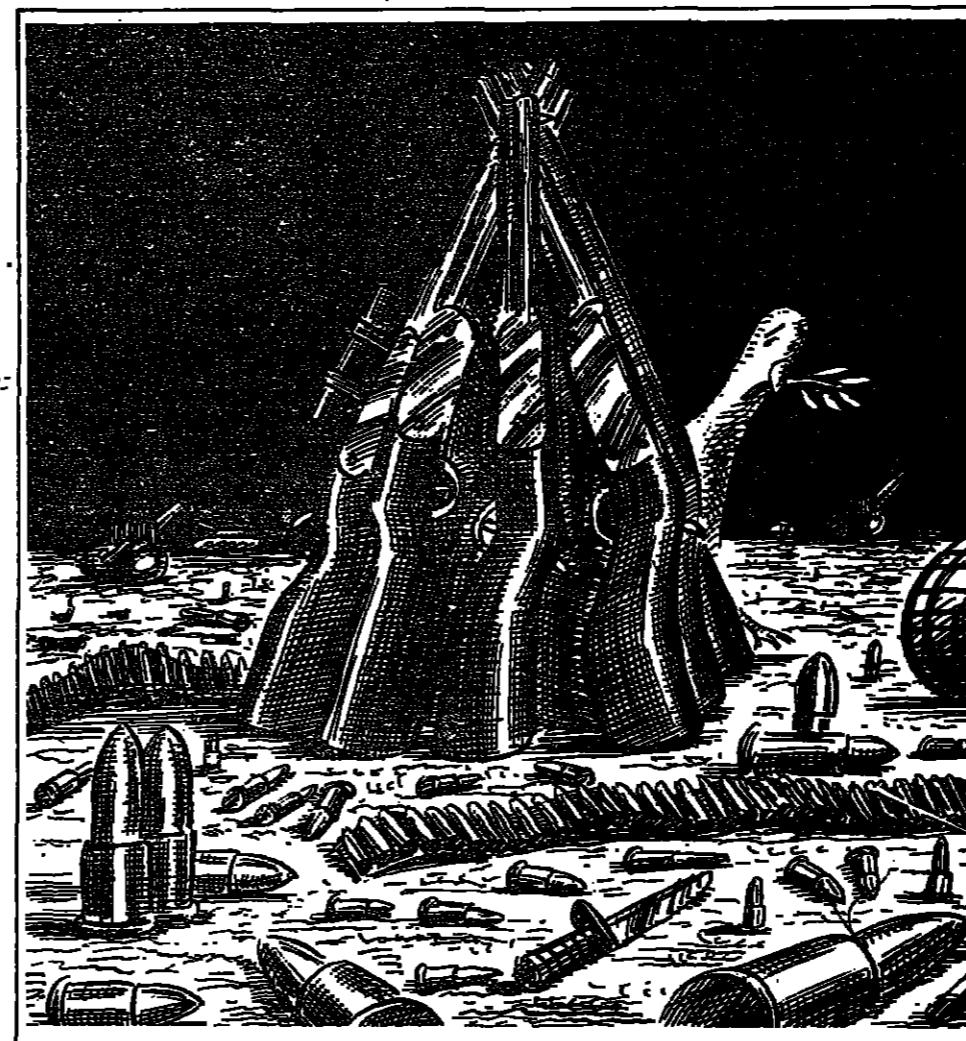
The last two years have shown that Oslo represents a process and a mindset, rather than a quantifiable peace deal. I and others who have supported the Oslo process from its inception — and still support it — argue today that its gains cannot be fully measured today, because as a process it brings gains only with time.

The past two years have not been wasted. They have achieved what the past two generations could not achieve: tacit recognition of the other's humanity and statehood by both Palestinians and Israelis. Now the hard work begins, as both sides negotiate the facts on the ground, as they translate a tacit acceptance of the other to a formal recognition of the territorial expression of the other's national identity. The arm twisting will be tough, sometimes violent, always trying, but it has to start.

Hebron is the first test of this hard new phase of negotiations, the most dramatic and substantive test to date of the success of the gradual Oslo approach to peace-making. According to the logic and young legacy of the Oslo process, it is most likely now that the Israeli settlers will leave Hebron in the same way they entered it — in a slow, phased manner, determined largely by political considerations, embellished with much ideological kicking and screaming, and escorted all the way out by the uniformed and armed soldiers of the state of Israel.

A faltering hope takes flight

By Jonathan Steele on the Serbs, Croats and Muslims who want Bosnia reintegrated



AS THE clouds of war over Bosnia apparently part for the first time for three years, a new landscape begins to emerge. Sunlit is not the best description. Too much blood has been spilt, too much destruction wrought, too many refugees sent away in despair. But there is at least a prospect of some sort of civil society being rebuilt, in which the common denominator is not fear of one's neighbour, as it has been throughout the undermining of Yugoslavia's multi-ethnic structures and the collapse into war.

Can the new society revive the ethnic tolerance which once marked Bosnia out as a beacon of sanity in the Balkans? Or is postwar Bosnia going to be stained indefinitely by the "cleansing" of the last few years, broken into a patchwork of entities where one nationality has the upper hand? Few people have put those questions as urgently as two delegations of Bosnians in London this week. In separate ways they represented the forgotten people of Bosnia, those who still offer some non-nationalist alternative.

Nationalism encourages war, and in turn is encouraged by it. The two feed on each other, making hard for dissenters to speak out, and creating a united front where independence can be made to seem treachery. The presence of the two delegations was a reminder that, even under the centralising pressures of war, politics in Bosnia have not become totally monolithic.

One delegation represented the Serb Civic Council, plus the two Croat members of the Bosnian presidency. For obvious reasons they have a clear interest in preventing Bosnia becoming a Muslim-dominated state. The Serbs, in particular, feel concern. An estimated 150,000 Serbs still live in the territory now controlled by the Bosnian government. They have never been part of the statelet run by Ratko Mladić and Radovan Karadžić, and treat them as war criminals just as much as do the non-Serbs of Bosnia.

At present the Bosnian government area is described as a Muslim-Croat federation. The arrangement was brokered in Washington last year, as the only way to stop fighting between the Croat and Muslim forces of Bosnia. The federation has been remarkably successful in its primary purpose, but as a long-term arrangement it is not the best option, not least because it excludes the Serbs.

To widen the options, the delegation from the Serb Civic Council favours a federal system embracing the whole of Bosnia, in which Serbs would also have rights. They do not specify how those rights would be made real, whether on a geographical basis through cantons as laid out in the Vance-Owen plan, or by other means. Clearly the present system

of a collective presidency in which all nationalities are represented is not enough. The delegation included people from the presidency, and they know well how nominal is their power.

The other delegation in London this week consisted of politicians and civic leaders, linked to the Helsinki Citizens Assembly, who doubt the federalist principle itself. They are Bosnia's true non-nationalists. They argue that while a federation is preferable to a state-based on one nationality alone (as Croatia and Serbia have in practice become), it is still flawed. It fails to give specific recognition to other minorities, such as Jews. It creates a political limbo for those who continue to call themselves Yugoslavs, either because they are the children of mixed marriages or because they resist ethnic identification out of principle. It forces people to think ethnically, reducing every socio-economic or political choice to the question of whether it benefits this group or that.

Arguing over such matters may seem like a luxury at this moment in the Bosnian tragedy. This is a false perception. The nature of the peace which people want can have a crucial bearing on the time needed to finish the war.

The first requirement now must be for the tentative truce established around Sarajevo to lead to a wider ceasefire throughout Bosnia. The military advances made by Bosnian government troops and Croatian allies in western Bosnia may lift morale in some quarters, but they carry within them the seeds of new civilian misery as the refugee columns lurch north towards Banja Luka.

Under the peace plan accepted in Geneva, the Serbs in the Mladić-Karadžić camp were due to give up a large chunk of the territory they seized in the early part of the war. For the other two sides to seize territory by force before the maps are worked out is wrong for at least three reasons. It turns yet more innocent people into refugees. It further reduces the chances of a multi-ethnic Bosnia by intimidating and expelling people for no other reason than that they are not of the same nationality as the incoming army. It does not even have "historical justice" behind it, because many of the towns in western Bosnia captured this week were always wholly or largely Serb.

They were occupied by Mladić's forces three years ago. They were not seized. Capturing them does not mean that Croats and Muslims are regaining their homes. It is invasion.

The central weakness of this week's Geneva agreement was its silence on the constitutional arrangements for an integrated Bosnia. The plan recognised two existing "entities" under their present constitutions. It said almost nothing about any over-arching institutions. The non-nationalists in London this week rightly stressed that the key issue now is which way the pressures on the negotiators go. Will they be made to think

Dealing with global warming

By Dr. Jaser K. Rabadi

GLOBAL WARMING

(the increase of surface temperature of the earth) is caused by the increase in concentrations of green house gases (GHGs) in the atmosphere due to various industrial activities and logging of forests.

Features of climate change include, but are not limited to, sea level rise, alteration of weather patterns, rainfall and evaporation rates, leading to adverse effects on agriculture, ecosystems, hydrology and water resources, human health and air quality and a wide range of socio-economic impacts.

Promote and cooperate in the development, application and diffusion, including transfer of technologies, practices and processes to reduce or prevent anthropogenic emissions of GHGs.

Promote sustainable management and promote and cooperate in the conservation and enhancement of sinks and reservoirs of GHGs including biomass, forests and oceans as well as terrestrial, coastal and marine ecosystems.

Promote in preparing for adaptation to the impact of climate change, develop and elaborate appropriate and integrated plans for coastal zone management, water resources and agriculture, and for the protection and rehabilitation of areas affected by drought, desertification and floods.

Take climate change considerations into account in their relevant social, economic and environmental policies and actions.

Promote and cooperate in scientific research, technological, technical, socio-economic and other research, systematic observation and development of data archives related to the climate system and intended to reduce the remaining uncertainties in the cause, effect, magnitude and timing of climate change and the economic and social consequences of various response strategies.

Promote and cooperate exchange of information related to climate system.

Promote and cooperate in education, training and public awareness related to climate change and encourage participation of NGOs in these activities.

Dr. Rabadi is director of applied meteorology at the Meteorological Department. He contributed the above article to the Jordan Times.

LETTERS

Cancer awareness

To the Editor:

I READ with interest the article by Waleed Sa'di entitled "Why neglect a major killer," (Jordan Times, Sept. 11). I was in Amman for six months last year as the adviser on the commissioning of Al Amal Cancer Centre. When the centre opens, there will be a special research department incorporated in the management of the hospital. I am now working, again for six months, at the Red Crescent Hospital. There will be a similar department commissioned here shortly.

This issue will also be an important topic included in the in-service training programme for all staff. It is also matters and the reason why rules and regulations have to be obeyed in a hospital if a high standard of care is to be given to the patients.

(Mrs.) Barbara Johnston
Amman

The Guardian

Latin America now welcomes yesterday's 'imperialists'

By Gabriel Escobar
and
Anne Swanson

THREE DECADES after the Latin American left led a call against cultural imperialism, targeting the United States as its prime purveyor, South America has unabashedly embraced culture fits.

More and more, the Americas are accepting a universal, homogenised popular culture in which touches of Latin rhythm or Spanish accent a dominant North American diet of songs, words and images.

Conflict over the mass media invasion is rare, save for the occasional volley fired in an academic publication, and in striking contrast to the anguished cries of old battles to preserve cultural identity.

"Cultural imperialism" was a key rallying slogan of the Latin American left in the 1960s. The United States exports its mass culture to Latin America, and all the tools that go with it, the argument went, in hopes of creating a market and furthering its ideology.

The flow is one way and insidious, and the casualties are cultural identity and economic independence.

But after many in the left took up arms in the 1970s, the cry for cultural protection was lost on the new battlefields of the next two decades. The failures of the guerrilla movements, the subsequent decline of Cuba's influence, the electoral defeat of the Sandinistas in Nicaragua, the collapse of communism, all made the idea of cultural imperialism seem anachronistic, a cold war relic.

Then, as Latin American governments began to adopt free-market economic policies in the last decade, they opened doors to

a new type of American consumerism. Arguably a much stronger version that what had been so feared in the 1960s, this new wave of Yankee influence encountered no opposition.

"On the cultural level, all resistance ended," said Carlos Ares, an author and editor of *La Maga*, an influential literary magazine in Argentina that claims to be the hemisphere's cultural vanguard. "Intellectuals who once were comparatively well-known as rock idols today are barely seen as a minority. There is resignation in every sense."

At the same time, even critics acknowledge that mass media have energised and refreshed culture in Latin America. Cable television brings news shows from the United States, Europe and neighbours in the region. Argentines and Chileans, in many ways so different from the rest of Latin America, see and hear Colombians, Mexicans and Peruvians talking on television every night.

Brazil, which has always

ter for Chocolate," by Laura Esquivel of Mexico, became a best-seller in English translation and then was made into a movie; Gabriel García Márquez, joining Brazil's Jorge Amado, made it to Broadway; a new wave of Chilean authors, most of them women, took up academic posts in the United States.

All these examples give weight to the argument that the countries in the continent have always shared aspects of culture, which spread along the Inca Trail, along missionary routes, on the Pan-American Highway, or now via cable and satellite. The Chilean poet Pablo Neruda, a Communist, had on his writing desk a picture of the most democratic of poets, Walt Whitman. Mr. García Márquez has acknowledged his debt to his "master," William Faulkner.

But Mr. Ares, among others, says he believes the current dominance of American culture in the post-cold war world is different. "The world changed in a very short time," he said. "Suddenly, one world fell, and it was absolutely seduced by the world that imposed that won."

He added, "in a world without utopias, the market becomes a new utopia."

This view that the culture of consumerism is a type of generic culture, bringing the continent together for worse or better, is buttressed by the spread of huge shopping centres. Alike in design and in content, these free market temples sell the same clothes (Levi's, Nike), serve the same food (Pizza Hut, McDonald's, Taco Bell) and show the same movies. From Santiago to Rio de Janeiro, Bogotá and Mexico City, these centres, in effect, allow people to travel without leaving home

and to feel at home even when travelling.

"You are outside of time," said Mr. Ares, the editor of *La Maga*. "The brands are all the same. It is the extraterritoriality of shopping. You could be outside your own country, but when you enter a shopping centre in the United States, you feel that you're in your own land. The flavour is the same."

The concern of intellectuals here and around the region is that the new mass media are so all-encompassing and their message so strong that they will crowd out everything.

And in a continent where so many are still poor, the mass culture tends to accentuate differences. As one critic said, it makes a student in Buenos Aires much closer to a counterpart in New York than to someone in a poor province several hundred miles away.

Talk of the information highway as a new cultural link for the region, a hot topic in Latin America these days, is put in perspective by statistics: While the United States boasts 287 computers per 1,000 residents, the highest in the world, Latin America lags far behind. Brazil has only 6 per 1,000; Mexico, a leader, has 17.

The effects of advertising and the rise in fast-food stores have had their own impact. In Argentina, annual per capita consumption of wine has fallen in the last 20 years to 42 liters (11 gallons) from 91, mainly because teenagers have turned almost exclusively to beer, a major advertiser. The domestic sale of Argentina's famed beef has declined overall, but demand for ground beef is up, a shift attributed to the

popularity of hamburgers and the flood of U.S. fast-food chains.

"There are so many things that you lose the possibility of choosing one and staying with it," said Andrea Maturana, 26, a Chilean biologist and writer. "People are less trusting, more worried about themselves, more rushed. It makes me sad to see how so few people are willing to fight for what they want."

To fight this tide is to choose your battles, as Mr. Ares learned in his short-lived struggle against the English invasion. It may be impossible to prevent "chequenos" from spreading, just as it was impossible in a different age to keep out "OK," a word universally understood throughout Latin America and much of the world.

Advocates of Canadian culture point to the success of such Canadian-based entertainers as Celine Dion, Bryan Adams and Roch Voisine as evidence that there policies nurture talent that otherwise would be buried under the American avalanche. The fine arts and authors of books also have benefited, they say.

Enforcing cultural protections often is a complex matter, however, and can lead to trade capitulation at home. The government late last year said it would place an 80 per cent excise tax on Sports Illustrated Canada, a spinoff edition of the American magazine that featured a few Canadian articles along with the American ones, and lots of Canadian ads. U.S. officials have threatened retaliation if the proposal becomes law, as predicted later this year.

About 66 per cent of all books bought, and 80 per cent of the magazines on newsstands, are non-Canadian. American culture prevails in every corner of the second-largest country on Earth: In the Innu Indian community of Davis Inlet in northern Labrador, 1,950 kilometers northeast of Detroit, natives watch Detroit television stations received by satellite.

This penetration continues despite rules, requirements, protections

and subsidies designed to preserve Canadian culture. The measures also are exempted from the North American Free Trade Agreement among the United States, Canada and Mexico (and possibly Chile soon). The United States cannot bring an unfair-trade case to the treaty's arbitrators against those cultural protections, although it is allowed to retaliate against them.

In a hemisphere where the poor and the silent are the majority, old traditions are sometimes overwhelmed by the cacophony of the new, but that does not always mean they are weak or even fading. They just may not be heard.

"Something else will come out of this," said Mr. Ares of the vast number of people whose voices are seldom heard because they are outside the cities. "Something will happen with these masses on the other side of the moat. I don't think it is something that can be communicated through television, and I don't think it will be easy when millions want to be heard."

And even in cities, there is room for new voices. Miss Maturana, the literary sensation in Chile, has become a role model for a generation that perhaps watches too much MTV Latino but still is capable of recognising native talent, a new voice.

"You take a different step from the rest, and they convert you into a celebrity, and they demand you be a celebrity," she said. "I think perhaps there is a shortage of role models, and for some reason they identify with me, even though I don't feel at all representative."

International Herald Tribune

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Economy

Experts divided over which way dollar, yen will go

TOKYO (Agencies) — Will the dollar go up or down? even the experts can't agree.

The correct answer could mean huge profits or losses for everyone from large electronics companies that depend on export earnings to institutional investors trying to make money for mom-and-pop pensioners.

As the U.S. currency has risen in recent weeks to 15-month highs against the Japanese yen, currency traders, financial analysts and company executives have increasingly argued over whether the rise will continue.

"A lot of movement depends on factors that are very hard to predict, like what the central banks are going to do, or what monthly reports are going to say," Dan O'Keefe, a market analyst at Merrill Lynch, said Monday.

Traders' time frame is "days, if not hours, so it's really hard to say how they are going to push the currency," he added.

The dollar Monday was hovering near 104 yen, with traders saying they were unsure whether to believe financial officials of Germany, Japan and the United States who say they want the dollar to keep rising.

A survey by the Japan Centre for International Finance, a market analysis company, showed that experts at 43 stock brokerages, financial firms and manufacturing companies were split on where the dollar would be six months from now, accord-

ing to reports Monday.

The survey, conducted last week as the dollar rose, found that some believed the dollar would fall to 90 yen by December, while others were predicting a rise to 110.

That 20-yen gap, equivalent to less than 20 cents at Monday's exchange rates, may not sound like much. But on currency markets, the dollar is said to "soar" or "plunge" when it moves just one yen.

And, perhaps even more important for Japan's economy, the difference between a dollar worth 90 and 110 yen is the difference between profit and loss for a large number of Japanese companies.

A recent survey by the Nihon Keizai Shinbun, the most widely read economic daily, showed Japan's export industries — which often determine the health of the economy — could break even with the dollar at just over 95 yen.

When the dollar sank below 80 yen in April, a historic low, virtually every Japanese exporter said it could not make a profit, because sales made overseas would be worth so few yen.

The exporters try to protect themselves against fluctuations by buying currency futures, but buying those futures is an exercise in trying to predict where the currencies will go.

With the experts disagreeing, those predictions get very difficult.

"Everyone is wavering,"

said Tomohiro Aoki of the finance centre, who generally confirmed the reports about the survey.

"The market sentiment is for the dollar to keep rising... but the structural issues, such as the U.S. savings rate and Japan's current account surplus, haven't changed," he said.

Meanwhile, Japan's chief cabinet secretary Koken Nosaka Monday welcomed the dollar's recent gains against the yen but said the Japanese government would like to see the U.S. currency appreciate further.

"I think 108 yen is a yardstick," the official government spokesman told a news conference. "The trade minister says 108 yen is the break-even point for small and medium-sized companies."

Tomio Tsutsumi, vice minister at the international trade and industry ministry, later said that exchange rates were still in the process of reversal.

"We have not set a target, but we can say that the yen is still in a turnaround against the dollar," he told a regular news conference, denying that Trade Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto wanted to see the dollar at 108 yen.

"There have been reports earlier that chief cabinet secretary Nosaka wants the dollar at 108 yen, but 108 yen was simply the break-even point for small and mid-sized companies according to our research," Mr. Tsutsumi said.

third month in a row.

The figures were well below the expectations of private economists, who had predicted the surplus would actually rise to between \$6.1 billion and \$8.0 billion.

Economists had expected the surplus to increase due to sluggish crude oil imports and a rebound in car exports, along with the lingering effects of the strong yen.

The surplus had shrunk sharply in July as the strong yen started to take its toll on exports, narrowing to \$9.43 billion from \$12.43 a year earlier.

A yen rise slows down Japanese exports, because the strong yen inflates the prices of Japanese goods in terms of foreign currencies, and makes them less competitive.

But in fact the August

trade figures showed stronger growth in imports than in exports.

"The export figure was low, lower than expected, perhaps on lower demand in the United States. But it is hard to see if this is the start of a trend without seeing what happens next month," said Hidetoshi Tsuchiya of Sanwa Research Institute.

The finance ministry was more optimistic that the trade surplus was on the decline.

"Japan's trade surplus is on a declining trend. I hope the surplus will narrow further with the steady implementation of government steps, like the package of measures to stem the yen's rise announced in April," a finance ministry official told reporters.

Exports rose 12.6 per cent to \$35.22 billion and imports grew 15.9 per cent to \$29.26 billion.

Tokyo's politically sensitive trade surplus with the United States fell to \$2.94 billion from \$3.48 billion a year earlier, dropping for the

THE Daily Crossword by Frank L. Jackson

ACROSS

1 Disappear gradually

5 Iridescent gem

9 Fragment

14 In — (bored by sameness)

15 Gumshoe's concern

16 Bara of old movies

17 Stead

18 London gallery

19 Prepared

20 Gourmet salad

fruits

23 Single

24 Intuitive letters

25 Work by Swift, e.g.

29 Preludes

31 Bikini section

34 Hold tight

35 Bounces over water

36 Crooked

37 Pogo the possum's milieu

40 Fire: pref.

41 Consumer

42 Reef builder

43 Overhead railways

44 Luge

45 Moon goddess

46 Collard

47 Sty

48 Insincere weeping

56 Large herbivore

57 Footnote word

58 Sugar source

59 Inject animation

60 Breakfast, e.g.

61 Spoken

62 Mortimer the dummy

63 — Rider

64 — contendere

DOWN

1 FDR's dog

2 Seed cover

3 Sword fight

4 Small case

5 Motor fuel word

6 Dish

7 Self: pref.

8 Suggestive gaze

9 Accent

10 Tawdry

11 Raise

12 Totals

13 Wages

21 Deep ravine

22 Intrinsically

25 Range

26 Certain chemical

27 Rows

28 Pertinent data

29 Made a pie

30 Mimic

31 Strident sound

32 Nose or candle

33 Winesap, for one

35 Ply with medicine

35 Truant

38 Certain card game term

39 Fragrance

44 First also-ran?

5 Herr Stem Eflat

6 Aloe Tare Niece

7 Ivan Aria Train

8 Firebrander Rend

9 Assert Epee

10 Usna Seaman

11 Shaft Olla Taro

12 Soli Croat Eric

13 Tsar Hans Freck

14 Serene Etal

15 Sure Retest

16 Scott Firedrake

17 Humor Roan Igor

18 Atari Ettat Clan

19 Derma Mass Eels

20 Handsome Hopeless

21 Entreats Flying

22 Tear apart forcibly

23 Brainchild Poetically

24 Chatter Of flying

25 Tear apart forcibly

26 Literary monogram

Yesterday's puzzle solved:

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Egyptian reserves in biggest fall for four years

CAIRO (R) — Egypt's massive foreign reserves, the pride of its economic reform programme, have slipped by between \$300 million and \$400 million since the middle of the year, a source in the central bank said Sunday.

It is the biggest fall in foreign reserves since the government floated the Egyptian pound in October 1991. At that time they stood at a little over \$3 billion.

Foreign exchange dealers gave different explanations — the narrowing gap between dollar and Egyptian pound interest rates, an increase in imports, or residual concern that the government might engineer a devaluation.

The reserves stood at between \$18.2 billion and \$18.3 billion at the end of June 1995. By about Aug. 20, they had fallen to \$17.9 billion, the source said, quoting central bank figures.

There was a rumour that the pound would fall to 4.5 (pounds to the dollar) by the end of the year. It doesn't look like it will happen but it's taken a toll," he added.

The pound has survived a succession of devaluation scares, prompted often by the imminence of talks between the government and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

"At those rates people don't think it's worth the risk to bring more dollars in," one dealer said.

"We have had a steady stream of people switching into dollars. They can't be

sure what the government is going to do with the pound," said another.

The government has argued back with figures showing steady growth in now-oil exports. These doubled in value in the first quarter of this year, to \$2,159 million pounds (\$635 million), against 1,081 million (\$318 million) in the same period of 1994.

But the cost of imports has been increasing faster, adding to the country's chronic trade deficit.

Despite the fall, the reserves remain enough to cover more than 20 months of imports — way above the minimum safety level.

World Bank discussing debt forgiveness for poorest countries

WASHINGTON (AP) — World Bank officials are discussing a possible multibillion-dollar pool to help pay off some of the \$30.5 billion owed by the world's poorest countries to international bodies.

The bulk of the help would go to Africa.

A bank statement said a plan had been drawn up for informal discussions by the bank, the International Monetary Fund and other institutions.

Officials estimated that only some poor countries would benefit from a debt-reduction plan, since it would apply only to from 10 to 15 governments that are carrying out satisfactory plans to put their finances in order.

The countries were not named.

One source with knowledge of the proposal said it did not call for direct debt forgiveness by the bank and fund, which have a long-standing policy of not writing off debt. But if they contributed to the planned pool, they would, in effect, be paying off some of the debt to themselves.

The report is based on the first half of the year economic performances by Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Mexico, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela, which account for nearly 90 per cent of the region's gross national product (GNP). Some data from other countries was also considered.

The region's overall figures were greatly influenced by the financial crisis in Mexico.

The region will almost certainly close the year with its first global trade surplus in a decade, due mainly to a 20 per cent increase in the value of its exports pushed by higher prices of the key commodities.

Especially affected are

Argentina, where unemployment stands at 18.6 per cent.

Venezuela 11 per cent and Uruguay 10.5 per cent. Brazil, Chile and Colombia fared slightly better, according to ECLA.

In Mexico, unemployment jumped from 5.8 per cent this year from only 3.6 per cent in 19

AC Milan remain unbeaten; PSG lose 1st match

ROME (Agencies) — Liberian-born striker George Weah tallied once in each half to rally AC Milan to a 2-1 win over AS Roma Sunday night, keeping race with Juventus of Turin atop the Italian first division.

After Argentine international Abel Balbo gave Roma the lead off a free kick in the 15th minute, Weah took advantage of a defensive lapse to equalise in first-half injury time and then scored the game-winner in the 77th.

Milan improved to 3-0-0 in the league, same as defending champion Juventus, which earlier Sunday defeated Vicenza 1-0 on Gianluca Vialli's first-half goal.

Juve, which has opened the season against three promoted clubs, and Milan have won two matches in cup play for perfect records overall. The Turin side leads in the Serie A standing on goal differential.

Lazio of Rome lost its share of first place in a 3-3 draw at Bari as the home side's Igor Protti scored three times to take over the league scoring lead with five goals.

AC Parma, expected to challenge for the title, suffered a 3-0 loss at Sampdoria of Genoa and slid to 1-1-1.

Atalanta of Bergamo also fell from the ranks of the unbeaten in a 3-1 loss to Napoli, which shares second place with Lazio.

In other matches: Fiorentina beat Cagliari 3-1; Inter of Milan drew 0-0 with Piacenza; Udinese edged Cremonese 3-2; and Padova and Torino drew 1-1.

Milan 2, Rome 1: At Rome, where Roma has not beaten Milan since 1985, the hosts dominated the early going and Balbo — whose 22 goals last season were second in the league — fired in a low drive from the left side on the penalty area for the lead.

But an error on the stroke of halftime by Roma captain Giuseppe Giannini, playing his 300th Serie A match,

allowed Milan to draw level. Thinking the ball had crossed the end-line, and waiting for the referee to stop the action, Giannini watched motionless as Montenegrin playmaker Dejan Savicevic passed to an open Weah, who scored from 8 metres.

Weah, acquired in the offseason from St. Germain, then hit his third of the season, breaking into the open and dribbling past Brazilian defender Aldair before putting the ball through the legs of charging goalkeeper Giovanni Cervone.

Juventus 1, Vicenza 0: At Turin, Vialli hammered a low drive from close range in the 21st minute for his third goal in two matches. Vicenza (1-2) clogged its backfield in a successful attempt at slowing Juve's attack, which had 15 goals in four prior matches.

Bari 3, Lazio 3: At Bari, Protti — who has all of his club's five goals this season — scored off headers in the eighth and 48th minutes and off an individual run in the 14th to stake the hosts to a 3-1 lead. Dutch winger Aron Winter had deposited a loose ball in the 43rd for Lazio (2-1-0).

The Romans, playing with just 10 men after the 45th-minute expulsion of rookie defender Guerino Gottardi, rallied for the draw behind Croatian striker Alen Bokic. Pierluigi Casiraghi converted Bokic's precise feed in the 56th, and Italian international striker Giuseppe Signori levelled the score three minutes later from the penalty spot after the Croat was fouled. Bari is 0-2-1.

Sampdoria 3, Parma 0: At Genua, where Parma has not beaten Sampdoria (1-2-0) since 1991, midfielder Christian Karembeu scored twice. Karembeu, from new Caldonia, redirected veteran forward Roberto Mancini's cross in the 21st minute, and then doubled in the 73rd, running

on to forward Claudio Bellucci's low pass. Bellucci's header made it 3-0 one minute from time.

Napoli 3, Atalanta 1: At Bergamo, Napoli (2-1-0) rallied from an early deficit on the strength of domination at midfield. Christian Vieri had a goal in the second minute to put Atalanta (1-1-1) ahead.

But forward Renato Buso equalised in the 30th, slamming the ball in off the post, and striker Carmelo Iambroni made it 2-1 for Napoli off French midfielder Alain Boughossian's cross in the 63rd. Forward Massimo Agostini's second goal of the season iced the match in the 74th.

Fiorentina 3, Cagliari 1: At Florence, forward Francesco Bajano's goals in the second and 15th minutes — off assists from Argentine striker Gabriel Batistuta and Portuguese midfielder Rui Costa — sent Fiorentina (2-0-1) to its sixth straight home win over Cagliari (0-0-3).

In the 17th, Fiorentina stopper Lorenzo Amoruso's own goal allowed Cagliari to get within 2-1, but he redeemed himself by scoring off a rebound just four minutes later. Cagliari is the only Serie A team with three losses after three rounds.

Udinese 3, Cremonese 2: At Udine, all the scoring came in the second half, with the hosts rapid-firing three goals in eight minutes and then holding on for the win. German striker Oliver Bierhoff directed the Udinese attack, scoring from 3 metres in the 61st minute, feeding forward Paolo Poggi for a running left-footed strike in the 66th and then heading home Giovanni Stroppa's cross in the 69th.

Cremonese (0-1-2) came back behind Riccardo Maspéro's penalty kick in the 21st minute, and then doubled in the 73rd, running

on to forward Claudio Bellucci's low pass. Bellucci's header made it 3-0 one minute from time.

Inter 0, Piacenza 0: At Milan, Inter's woeful attack could not generate opportunities against the League-worst defense of Piacenza (0-1-2). Inter is 1-1-1.

Padova 1, Torino 1: At Padua, Dutch midfielder Michel Kreck equalised for the hosts (0-1-2) in the 36th minute. Midfielder Antonio Bernardo's left-footed drive from the edge of the penalty area had put Torino (1-1-1) up after 14 minutes.

PSG stumps first defeat

In Paris, Paris St Germain stumbled to their first defeat of the season after an own goal from international defender Bruno N'Gotty on Sunday but stayed top of the French soccer league.

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EUROPEAN SOCCER

There was little N'Gotty could do to avoid scoring against his own side in the 18th minute in Montpellier, who won 1-0.

Montpellier, who dominated throughout, launched a lightning move on the right wing, leaving Christophe Sanchez alone in front of the Parisian box. Sanchez powerful shot hit the post, bounced on N'Gotty's chest and into the goal.

Despite the defeat, the Parisians, who had won their six previous matches, retained the lead on 20 points, second-placed Metz have 19 points.

Metz beat Monaco 1-0 in the principality on Saturday and were left as the only unbeaten side in the League after nine rounds.

Metz scored through a fine lob by strike Robert Pires in the 29th minute, handing Monaco their third defeat within nine days.

The team from the principality, who had to field their fourth goalkeeper this season after an injury jinx depleted the team, lost to PSG in the league and to Leeds United in the UEFA Cup last week.

Lens scored a convincing 3-1 win against Bastia in Sunday's games and shot to third in the standings on 18 points.

Paris St. Germain's disappointment at their defeat may have been tempered by the news that key striker Patrice Loko, the league's leading marksman last season, scored his first goal with PSG's reserve team on Sunday.

Loko has been receiving psychiatric treatment for the past two months after he destroyed cars and attacked policemen as he was coming out of a disco.

Nottingham Forest top
Everton

Nottingham Forest defeated Everton 3-2 in Sunday's

only Premier League match on first-half goals by Dave Watson and Jason Lee and a clincher in the second half by Ian Woan.

The victory gave Nottingham Forest nine points and kept team undefeated this season with two victories and four draws for 10 points.

Newcastle and Manchester United, coming off wins on Saturday, lead the premier league with 15 points.

Watson scored for Nottingham Forest in the 17th minute in Saturday's other game.

Valladolid 0, Compostela 0:

At Zaragoza, Barcelona could not get on the board until the second half when coach Johan Cruyff's son Jordi scored in the 6th minute. Bosnian striker Mehdi Kodro made it 2-0 in the 60th minute and Luis "Figo" Filipe Madeira of Portugal finished it out two minutes later with Barcelona's third goal.

Everton made a last-minute charge to tie the match when substitute Stuart

Barlow was denied on an 88th-minute equaliser by Mark Crossley's alert save.

The loss left Everton with seven points.

In the first division, Barnsley and Sheffield United played a 2-2 draw and West Brom defeated Birmingham 1-0.

Welsh international

Nathan Blake saved Sheffield United with two goals in the second half to salvage the 2-2 draw. Steve Davis put Barnsley ahead 1-0 in the 9th minute and Alan Kelly made it 2-0 in the 35th.

Alan Hunt scored in the 29th minute for West Brom to give them 15 points, two behind league leaders Millwall and Leicester.

Oviedo upset Real Madrid

In Madrid, Antonio Rivas made a long strike early in the second half Sunday to give Oviedo a 3-2 victory over Real Madrid and hand the defending champion its second surprise upset in two weeks.

On the other side of town, Atletico de Madrid fans had a pleasant surprise as their club held the league's top spot for the second straight week — after a four year hiatus — following its Saturday 2-0 victory at Athletic de Bilbao.

Last season's top scorer, Chilean Ivan Zamorano, did his best for Real Madrid's home crowd scoring in the game's first minute on a centring pass from Jose Amavida. Oviedo's Oliverio "oil" Alvarez fed it up eight minutes later.

Zamorano came back with a second goal on a pass from new acquisition Freddy Rincon of Colombia a half hour into the game but Alvarez tied it up again one minute before the end of the first half.

Three minutes into the second half, Rivas won the game for Oviedo in spectacular

Surin wins 100, 200 metres

KOBE (AP) — Canadian Bruny Surin won both the men's 100- and 200-metre dashes, beating American Dennis Mitchell by about one-quarter second each time Sunday in the Kobe International Track and Field meet.

Surin won the 100 in 10.11

seconds to 10.36 by Mitchell. On Friday, he had run 10.02 but placed second at that distance behind Britain's Lincoln Christie (10.00) in the Toto International super meet in Tokyo. He took the 200 here in 20.42, with Mitchell second in 20.70.

American Mark Crear won the 110-metre hurdles in 13.37 seconds.

In the men's 800 metres, Hicham El Guerrouj of Morocco won in 1 minute, 50.16 seconds, his second victory in three days in Japan. He won the 1,500 metres in 3:40.96 at the Toto meet.

Khalid Boulami of Morocco won the 5,000 metres in 13:31.35.

Baseball-Major League results

American League

Boston	9	Cleveland	6
Texas	5	Detroit	0
Baltimore	2	New York	0
Toronto	5	Milwaukee	0
Chicago	2	Seattle	1
Kansas City	10	California	8
Oakland	4	Minnesota	1

National League

Houston	5	Montreal	3
Pittsburgh	5	San Francisco	4
New York	8	Philadelphia	2
Los Angeles	8	St. Louis	0
Florida	17	Colorado	0
San Diego	11	Chicago	3
Atlanta	4	Cincinnati	1

South

♦ 10 9 6	4	Q J 8 3	♦ Q J 9
♦ A 10 9 2	4	♦ K 7 2	♦ K 7 2
♦ Q 8 3	4	♦ K 7 2	♦ K 7 2
♦ Q 7 6 5 4	4	♦ Q 4 3	♦ Q 4 3
♦ K 5 2	4	♦ A 10 6 5	♦ A 10 6 5

The bidding

North South East West

Pass Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Five of ♠

Defense is the most difficult aspect of bridge to master. When two defenseers are in the same hand, they must decide which card to play.

With no infraction of doubling a low-level heart contract, South opted for an invitational jump to two no trump rather a redouble. Since North had the minimum law limit of an opening bid, that brought the auction to an abrupt conclusion.

Had East thoroughly switched to a low spade, declarer would have seen that the contract was inferior and could not get more than one spade, two hearts and a trick in each minor. But East realized that no card other than the queen of spades could justify partner's signal so, to make sure of forcing an entry to partner's hand, East shifted to the four of spades.

This play, known in the trade as the Deschappelles Coup after the French whist star who first found it, ruined declarer. When the ace was given, West had to enter the hand and had to cash the jack of hearts. West played the eight as a suit-preference signal for the higher-ranking of the untrumped suits, in this instance spades.

East led a low heart, declarer returned the queen. A low heart return fetched the king, as West confirmed a five-card holding by following with the four, and the queen of diamonds was run into the king. When East cashed the jack of hearts, West played the eight as a suit-preference signal for the higher-ranking of the untrumped suits, in this instance spades.

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Graf lawyers offer \$10m bail



BONN (AFP) — Lawyers for Peter Graf, the father of top tennis star Steffi, are willing to post bail of up to \$10.2 million to secure his release from jail while tax fraud charges against him are heard.

"That sum would reduce fears that he would flee from justice," Peter Slania, one of the lawyers, told national television station ARD late on Saturday.

"The money would also serve as a deposit for tax authorities."

Steffi Graf visited her father on Friday for the first time since he was jailed at Mannheim prison on Aug. 2, Slania added.

Mannheim court will decide Monday whether to release Graf from custody

for managing his daughter's business affairs and prosecutors allege tax evasion on revenue of \$121 million.

Two years earlier, a winning team in Brazil abroad. He spent many games in another team in another country. At Atlanta, he died final

ments as qualifiers in the repeat. This week he will be a set and beat the No. 1 David Pernier of France and No. 7 Hsiao Ioumou more than once to date of 1995, news matches in the success of Rodeo

half marathon

Most of London and another Sunday, the two as the best distance in the world, best at 400, won in a time of 14:00. Bupu winner and w

Maya of Kenya M

runner 10:00 made a

ton of mass at the Se

was unable to go with

after a so-so start in

in next year's series

of a comeback after

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Damascus is said ready to redeploy forces in Lebanon

BEIRUT (R) — Syria is willing to move its 35,000 troops stationed in Lebanon to the eastern Bekaa Valley, Lebanese Parliament Speaker Nabil Berri said in a speech designed to allay Christian fears of domination by Damascus.

"On the security level, Syria is willing more than Lebanon to redeploy its troops (in Lebanon), but Syria still represents a Lebanese security need in light of the continued Israeli attempts to threaten Lebanon and disturb its general order," the pro-Syrian Shiite Muslim speaker said in a speech on Sunday.

Mr. Berri spoke in mainly-Christian Jbeil district, north of Beirut, where most people, along with some co-religionists in other areas, boycotted parliamentary polls in 1992, saying they refused to vote while Syrian soldiers remained in Lebanon.

They said the polls tightened Syria's hold by producing a pro-Syrian parliament.

Mr. Berri's remarks followed statements by Lebanon's exiled Christian opposition leaders who last week attacked what they said was Syria's rule of their country. They dismissed the current Lebanese leadership as puppets controlled by Syria.

Lebanon has emerged from 15 years of civil war with neighbouring Syria playing the role of power-broker in the country's affairs. Syria's 35,000 soldiers are deployed across two-thirds of Lebanon's territory, while Syria's traditional foe, Israel, occupies a narrow southern anti-guerrilla border zone.

Under the terms of the 1989 Taif peace accord which stenciled Lebanon's civil war

guns, a Syrian troop redeployment to the Bekaa Valley should have taken place by September 1992. Lebanese officials have repeatedly said they still needed Syrian help in shoring up a fragile internal peace.

Mr. Berri, seeking to reassure Lebanese Christians that their country had not been absorbed by Syria, said all agreements signed between Beirut and Damascus showed Syria's concern over its smaller neighbour "to the point that some Syrian ministers have complained that the facts gave Lebanon more speech on Sunday."

Touching on talks earlier this month in Damascus at which he was reconciled with his rival, Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Al Hariri, Mr. Berri said the essence of the talks was that the two would resort to the law and Lebanese institutions to settle their disputes.

"There was nothing else," Mr. Berri added, apparently denying earlier reports that the two had agreed in Damascus on extending the term of pro-Syrian Lebanese President Elias Hrawi.

Mr. Berri said parliament would not stay one day after its term expires next year — an assurance to some Christians who fear an extension of Mr. Hrawi's term which expires in November would be followed by a similar extension of the current parliament.

He said Syrian officials were annoyed by the continuous squabbling of Lebanon's top officials who turn to Damascus to solve their disputes. He said Syria did not want to play the role of arbiter in purely internal Lebanese problems.

Killing of presidential hopeful is a bad omen for Algerian elections

ALGIERS (AFP) — The slaying on Sunday of a presidential candidate by Muslim fundamentalists two months before scheduled elections serves as a bloody reminder of Algeria's deep civil unrest.

It is also a violent challenge to President Liamine Zeroual, who had formally called the day before for the elections to take place.

Several bombs have exploded in different parts of Algeria in the last few days, though none have caused injury.

Abdul Majid Benhadjid, 48, was shot on Sunday morning by three men while leaving his home in Boudouaou, 30 kilometres east of the Algerian capital Algiers.

A minor candidate who headed an association promoting sports and cultural activities, Benhadjid did not enjoy any special protection as a candidate.

Indeed, when he declared his candidacy local police asked him to leave the city, a Muslim fundamentalist stronghold, according to the Tribune, an independent daily.

"No one will touch me. They knew me. I am a son of the people," Benhadjid said at the time.

His killers, according to witnesses, were three

"youngsters" who fled after firing the fatal shots.

Benhadjid's murder is seen here as a bloody omen that the run-up to the first-round elections, scheduled for Nov. 16, are likely to be marred by the kind of violence that has already claimed at least 30,000 lives since 1992.

The independent daily Le Matin described the slaying of Benhadjid as "a kind of challenge" to the government, while the daily El Watan called it "a first bloody blow" that is "at the same time a message addressed to the candidates and the Algerian people."

The slaying also highlights the inability of the government, despite reassurances, to protect candidates against highly mobile bands of armed commandos that move easily within the poor suburbs where support for Muslim fundamentalists is strongest.

Remaining political candidates are now sharply aware that they are potential targets for terrorist attack, like scores of government-employed journalists and functionaries killed in the last three years.

The campaign runs the risk of unfolding in a state of siege, punctuated by car-bombs and attempted assassinations.

Iran says it opposes foreign intervention in Afghanistan

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Iran has urged Afghanistan's neighbours not to interfere in the country's internal struggle, a reference to allegations that Pakistan was supporting the Islamic Taliban movement.

"We hope that all the neighbours... Iran, Pakistan and those situated far away from Afghanistan will keep in mind the past condition of the country and realise that the Afghans should be left alone to tackle their own affairs without any input from outside," Iran's Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati said.

The official Iranian news agency IRNA said Mr. Velayati was speaking in an interview published on Monday in the English-language Iran News newspaper.

The Afghan government in Kabul earlier this month said it had proof of Pakistani support for Taliban fighters trying to topple Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani.

Both Pakistan and the Taliban movement denied the charge.

Pakistan assured the Islamic Republic (of Iran) several times that it is not interfering in the internal affairs of Afghanistan," Mr. Velayati said. "The government in Kabul refutes what Pakistan says."

Iran closed its border with Afghanistan and stepped up security there after the Taliban this month captured areas near the border from forces supporting Mr. Rabbani.

Tehran has been suspicious of the Taliban student militia which Iranian newspapers have accused of being organised by Pakistan.

Pakistan Foreign Minister Aseff Ahmad Alai has been sent to Rome and may meet there with ex-Afghan King Zaher Shah following dramatic changes in the military balance in Afghanistan, officials in Islamabad said Monday.

Mr. Alai flew to the Italian capital Sunday from Tehran after talks with Iranian leaders on the latest developments in Afghanistan.



JAPAN-JORDAN TALKS: His Majesty King Hussein and Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama on Monday chair talks between Jordan and Japan on bilateral relations, the Middle East peace process and other issues (Photo by Yousef Allan)

Palestinians seek control over digs

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP)

— The Palestinians are demanding a freeze on all archaeological excavations in the West Bank, including the Qumran area where four newly discovered caves may hold more Dead Sea scrolls, officials said.

But despite emerging plans to establish Palestinian autonomy in the West Bank, Israeli archaeologists said they would press ahead with a dig scheduled to begin there in coming months.

The dispute is among remaining issues on the negotiating table in Taba, Egypt, where Israeli and Palestinian leaders were meeting Sunday in a last-ditch effort to reach a West Bank deal by Sept. 21.

"We ask that all archaeological activity in the West Bank be stopped," said Hanan Taha, who headed the Palestinian negotiators on the issue. "There is no reason to start excavations in land that will be turned over to us."

Amir Drori, head of the Israel antiquities authority, told the Associated Press the sides were negotiating on who will control archaeological sites, but refused to reveal the Israeli position.

The question was brought to the fore by a surprise August announcement by two Israeli archaeologists that they had found previously unknown manmade caves in Qumran.

The area, a possible tourist attraction on the northwestern shores of the Dead Sea, has already been extensively excavated and surveyed since the Dead Sea scrolls were discovered in the 1950s.

The scrolls, written between 150 B.C. and A.D. 50, are among the most important archaeological finds of the century. They shed light on the origins of Christianity and the history of Judaism, and include the earliest known texts of the Old Testament.

Hanan Eshel, the Israeli archaeologist who discovered the new caves, said there was a good chance more scrolls or other artifacts lay in them since there were no signs they had been robbed. He said the excavation would take about three weeks.

The West Bank deal would constitute the second stage of the September 1993 Israel-Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) peace accord, after Gaza and Jericho became autonomous 16 months ago.

Although the plan would at first allow for self-rule only in enclaves around the major Palestinian cities, the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) has already been given control over most civilian areas of life in the entire West Bank.

Mr. Taha maintained the planned Israeli dig would amount to "last minute plundering." He added excavations could proceed even under Palestinian jurisdiction.

Yitzhak Magen, Israel's chief archaeologist in the West Bank, said the Palestinians' demands "have no effect on our work" and excavations would take place as planned by year's end.

Robert Eisenman, head of the religion department at California State University in Long Beach, said he would welcome Palestinian control over the sites.

Mr. Eisenman led a 1992 radar survey of the Qumran area and located at least two underground cavities he said might contain scrolls but was denied permission to probe them by Israel.

Kuwaiti woman jailed for murdering maid

KUWAIT CITY (AFP)

— A criminal court here sentenced a Kuwaiti woman to ten years in jail for battering her housemaid to death with a wooden stick on Monday.

The prosecution accused the employer of murdering her Sri Lankan housemaid by hitting her on the face, head and body with a stick that had a pointed iron heel, the newspaper added.

The maid died from head injuries sustained in the attack on April 16, 1994.

The Kuwaiti woman told the court the maid had refused to clean the house when asked. She admitted attacking the maid first with a sharp-edged iron bar until she fell to the floor and then with the stick.

"She was screaming and trying to escape from me... I didn't mean to kill her," the woman told the prosecution. "I also hit her with a wooden stick two or three days before her death," she confessed.

The Kuwaiti's husband told the prosecution that his wife called him at work and explained what had happened. He then reported it to police.

He said there had been a number of disagreements between his wife and the maid who did not speak Arabic and did not understand

orders given to her. The defence lawyer asked the court to clear the woman of murder or to reduce the punishment as she was a mother of four children, the eldest only four years old. He also sought psychiatric tests for her.

But the court heard that the woman did not suffer from any mental illness and was responsible for all her statements and actions.

The court decided there was no reason to show the woman mercy because of the brutality of her acts. She inflicted injuries to nearly every part of the maid's body and stopped battering her only after she had died.

The verdict is to be referred to Kuwait's appeals court.

The Sri Lankan embassy has identified the victim as P. Pushpalatha, 23. She was married with two children living in Sri Lanka and had been working in Kuwait for about five months at the time of her death in April 1994.

Hundreds of domestic helpers, mostly from the Philippines and Sri Lanka, have sought refuge at their embassies in Kuwait. Most of them complain of overwork, non-payment of salaries — which rarely exceed \$130 a month — beatings and sexual abuse.

Thousands of Egyptians held in desert jails — rights group

CAIRO (AFP)

— Thousands of accused Muslim militants have been exiled to isolated desert prisons in Egypt where they undergo torture and are forbidden medical care by security officials, a right group said.

Security services "have found a new way to violate prisoners' rights by the policy of Al-Taghrib," or exile, the Egyptian Organisation for Human Rights (EOHR) said in a report on prisons.

"The term, used commonly by prisoners, means the transfer of the detainee to prisons situated far from their homes where inmates are mistreated and denied visits from relatives and lawyers," the EOHR said.

The two main prisons where Islamist prisoners are sent are the Wadi Al Jadid prison, in the desert 620 kilometres west of Cairo, and the Wadi Al Natrun, 89 kilometres northwest of the capital.

Some 3,000 inmates "affiliated to the Jamaat Islamiyah" extremist group are held at Wadi Al Natrun. "The term, used commonly by prisoners, means the transfer of the detainee to prisons situated far from their homes where inmates are mistreated and denied visits from relatives and lawyers," the EOHR said.

Medical care in the Wadi Al Jadid and Natrun prisons, as well as the Abu Zaabal prison in Cairo and the Agrah (Scorpion) wing of Tora, all used to house Muslim militants, "is almost nonexistent," the group said.

The 20 inmates listed by the EOHR as having died in prison all showed "severe weight loss and de-

hydration." Most were buried in late-night funerals under heavy security, the group noted.

Prison authorities also "stage repetitive collective punishment campaigns under the pretext of restoring discipline," the report said.

It cited witnesses in Wadi Al Natrun, Abu Zaabal, and Tanta-prison, north of the capital, saying prison guards regularly assaulted detainees with dogs, electric sticks and wooden and rubber clubs.

They also shaved off prisoners' beards, a symbol of piety for Muslim fundamentalists, witnesses said.

In Wadi Al Jadid, arriving inmates are stripped to their underwear and "ordered to take on a female name and to consider themselves indicated in a prostitution case," witnesses said.

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Egyptian professionals face military court

ment suddenly became so sensitive about Muslim Brotherhood activities which it had tolerated for years? Their statements have appeared in government newspapers and leading Brothers have even met government officials.

The answer, the diplomats and analysts say, is simply the elections and forecasts that the country's largest and most influential fundamentalist organisation would do better than the government thinks comfortable. The government denies it.

The Brotherhood has had a foothold in local government since elections in 1992 and is still planning to put up 94 candidates for the 444 parliamentary seats at stake in November.

Egypt officials have a multi-party system but the ruling National Democratic Party, latest incarnation of the party that has governed since 1952, always wins an overwhelming majority.

The Brotherhood back in January, First, police round up 20 leaders and a few months before the elections, they picked up 150 more.

Last month President Hosni Mubarak, accusing the Brotherhood of funding armed militants seeking to overthrow him and install a strict Islamic state, issued a decree referring the 49 to a military court, equating them with violent militants of the Gamal Al Islamiyah.

Their charges do not include any offences usually referred to military courts, such as murder, using arms and possessing explosives. Military trials tend to be quick and more severe than those in civilian courts. Verdicts cannot be appealed.

The 49 standing trial appear to be carefully selected. At least seven are former members of parliament and most are eligible and powerful contenders to win seats in the poll.

Diplomats say the government is convinced the real threat to its power comes from the Brotherhood rather than from armed militants it has tamed through security measures.

The Brotherhood has much deeper roots in Egyptian society and its conservative vision of Islam is spreading steadily and confidently, changing the character of Egyptian society.

The Brotherhood have the money and the influence. Their members are professionals. They are in the centre of the social stratum. They are legitimate, well-respected, accepted and liked in society," said one analyst.

The Brotherhood alarmed the government after the Cairo earthquake of 1992 helped the victims. It also won control of the associations of lawyers, doctors, teachers and engineers, leading to a new law which made it much harder for them to win ag...

Iraqi Kurds seek to flush out PKK rebels

ANKARA (AFP)

— Iraqi Kurds have launched a huge operation to flush out Turkish Kurd separatists in northern Iraq in clashes which have left about 73 dead, the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) said in a statement Monday.

The KDP forces launched a major mopping up military operation since Sep. 15 against hideouts of the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) in the area where Iraq borders Turkey and Syria, the group said in the statement sent to Ankara.

The forces had "dislodged" PKK armed groups in the region and controlled four makeshift bases in Merga, Perav, Kherba Nori and Zafaran" as well as "ammunition and food depots."

The clashes erupted on Friday with a PKK attack on a KDP base at a television relay station southwest of the border town of Zakhro. KDP fighters "en-circled and destroyed" the PKK attackers who suffered 40 dead and nearly 20 wounded, the statement said.

Earlier last week the PKK lost 29 fighters and 56 were wounded in clashes with the KDP north of Atrush refugees camp. On Saturday the PKK attacked a KDP base near Beqolke near Kani Masi, and four KDP men were killed and two wounded, the statement added.

Fighting between the two groups broke out on Aug. 25 when the PKK launched attacks on the KDP to wreck a U.S. and Turkish-backed truce reached with its Iraqi Kurdish rival the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK).

Column